

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ISM: SHAAS:JG
APPROVED BY EB/ISM: ROGDEN
FPA-RMROCZEK
ARA/AND/B-DTOYRYLA
S/S:SVALERGA

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P 200153Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015733

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, BL

SUBJECT: GSA TIN SALES

REF: LA PAZ 393

1. THE GSA CURRENTLY HAS AVAILABLE FOR DISPOSAL ABOUT 300 TONS OF TIN, THE RESIDUAL FROM PREVIOUS DISPOSAL AUTHORIZATIONS FROM CONGRESS, WHICH THEY ARE CONTINUING TO SELL. ANOTHER 168,000 TONS HAS BEEN DECLARED IN EXCESS OF STOCKPILE GOALS BUT IS NOT AUTHORIZED FOR DISPOSAL. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS SUBMITTED DRAFT LEGISLATION (HR 9486, S 2181) CALLING FOR THE UTILIZATION OF UP TO 5,000 TONS OF SURPLUS TIN FOR OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUFFER STOCK OF THE INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL. CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON THE BILL ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN FEB. 14. THE MOLLOHAN BILL (HR 2723), WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE THE DISPOSAL

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OF 30,000 TONS OF TIN FROM THE STOCKPILE SURPLUS, IS ALSO AWAITING COMMITTEE ACTION. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT YET TAKEN A POSITION ON THAT BILL.

2. THE ADMINISTRATION WILL SUBMIT TO CONGRESS ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 23 THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 1979 (AND A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR FY 1978). THE BUDGETS WILL INCLUDE

GLOBAL FIGURES FOR STOCKPILE ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS,

BUT WE UNDERSTAND INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY FIGURES WILL NOT BE INCLUDED. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL/EXDIS. THE ADMINISTRATION IS PLANNING GSA TIN SALES DURING 1978 AND FY 1979. NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE REGARDING THE LEVEL. WE ANTICIPATE NECESSARY AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION WILL BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS THIS SPRING. AT THIS TIME, WE CANNOT PREDICT WHEN CONGRESS MIGHT ACT ON AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION OR WHEN GSA SALES MIGHT ACTUALLY BEGIN. THESE DISPOSALS WOULD BE SEPARATE FROM ANY U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO ITC BUFFER STOCK, OR DISPOSALS UNDER THE MOLLOHAN BILL IF IT SHOULD PASS. ENDCONFIDENTIAL.

3. IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVITIES OUTLINED REFTEL, DEPT RECOMMENDS THAT YOU CONTINUE TO HANDLE TIN STOCKPILE DISCUSSIONS WITH BOLIVIANS ALONG LINES OUTLINED PARAGRAPH 2 REFTEL. YOU MIGHT ADD THAT MATERIALS FOR DISPOSALS AND THEIR QUANTITIES WILL BE MADE PUBLIC AT TIME AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION IS CONSIDERED. YOU MIGHT ALSO ADD THAT U.S. CONTINUES TO TAKE ITC STOCKPILE CONSULTATION PROVISIONS VERY SERIOUSLY. CONSULTATIONS WITHIN ITC AND BILATERALLY WITH INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS WILL BE HELD ON ANY GSA SALES. THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONSULT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA, THROUGH ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, ON ANY SALES WHICH MIGHT AFFECT BOLIVIA. CHRISTOPHER CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TIN, SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE015733
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SHAAS:JG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780030-0293
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780139/aaaabgyu.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: db14c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 LA PAZ 393
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3738473
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GSA TIN SALES
TAGS: EMIN, BL
To: LA PAZ
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/db14c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014